



Joe Sanfelippo



Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District

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March 2011

Committee Assignments:

Parks, Energy and Environment (Vice-Chair) • Judiciary, Safety and General Services • Personnel

Dear Friends and Constituents,

The start of March brings anticipation of spring. I am tired of winter and shoveling, and I am looking forward to warmer, longer days and the opportunity to spend more time outdoors.

During March, we also celebrate St. Patrick's Day, which originally began in Ireland as a religious feast day to celebrate the anniversary of St. Patrick's death in the fifth century. The first St. Patrick's Day Parade, however, was not held in Ireland but in America back in 1762 when Irish soldiers serving in the English army marched through New York City.

Today, along with Parades and green beer, Americans celebrate the day by eating more than 41 billion pounds of corned beef and nearly 3 billion pounds of cabbage. If that sounds unbelievable keep in mind there are 36.5 million U.S. residents with Irish roots. That number is more than 9 times the population of Ireland! And, of course, everyone is a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

Along with St. Patrick's Day on March 17th the County Board will be hosting Student Government Day. Local area high school students can spend the day learning about county government, tour the court house and attend a county board meeting. I am looking forward to spending time with a student from the 17th District who attends Nathan Hale High School.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



County Executive Race

With all the attention that has been focused on Madison lately, the race for County Executive seems nonexistent. Yet, in just five short weeks we will choose a new leader that will have some very difficult work to do trying to balance the county's budget and eliminate our long-term structural deficit.

I encourage everyone to take the time to learn about each of the candidates running so that you can make a well informed decision. Voting is not only a right, but a responsibility in a free society. Please remember to vote April 5th.

If you are a new resident of District 17 and are unsure of where to vote, or if you would like to receive an absentee ballot, you can call your municipality for further information.

Greenfield City Clerk: (414) 329-5219

Greendale City Clerk: (414) 423-2100

West Allis City Clerk: (414) 302-8200



Redistricting

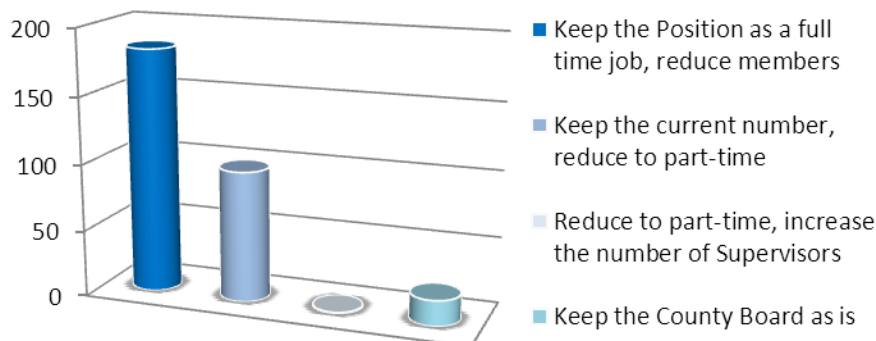
The County Board has begun the redistricting process that takes place after the completion of the national census. Redistricting is an important and constitutionally mandated task that will determine the representation, size and makeup of the County Board for the next ten years.

In my Blueprint for Restoring Financial Solvency in Milwaukee County Government I issued last August, I recommended considering reducing the size of the County Board, or changing the structure of the supervisor position to part-time. While I have not yet fully decided which option is best, it is very clear that one or the other must be done.

Downsizing the Board would save money and perhaps eliminate some the micromanaging of departments and services that happens now with 19 members. Switching to a part-time position may foster a wider field of candidates to run for the job. There are many good people out there that could bring a fresh perspective and great experience to the board but just cannot commit to a full time position. Also, making the position part-time and holding meetings in the evenings would be more convenient for constituents and allow for better participation by the public.

I will be paying very close attention as this process unfolds over the next few months, and I urge all county residents to get involved. The Redistricting Committee will hold public meetings in the future for you to voice your opinion. Watch for more information in future monthly E-News updates.

Reform best for the County Board



Data taken from the 2010
District 17 Fall
Newsletter.

Why bargaining must be reined in

by

Supervisor Joe Sanfelippo

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel February 28, 2011

State employee unions have agreed to pay a bit more toward their pension and health care costs, so why do we need to rein in collective bargaining?

First, we must remember that the 5.8% pension and 12.6% health care concessions the governor asked for only apply to state workers. Without the accompanying collective bargaining reforms, Milwaukee County has no guarantee of achieving similar savings from its unions. In fact, based on past experience, the county is unlikely to achieve any concessions whatsoever.

In 2009, faced with the possibility of a large year-end deficit, then-County Executive Scott Walker proposed a 35-hour workweek. The unions objected and filed a grievance. In lieu of the shortened workweek, the county then instituted furlough days. Once again, the unions objected and filed a lawsuit.

Both the 2010 and 2011 budgets adopted by the County Board included modifications requiring employees to pay more of their pension and health care costs. To their credit, the non-union employees took these concessions while the unions stonewalled negotiations and refused to partake in any sacrifice.

Now, when I hear unions claim that they are willing to accept concessions, it reminds me of that old Peanuts cartoon where Lucy persuades Charlie Brown to kick the football by promising that she won't remove it at the last minute (despite doing so countless times before). As Charlie runs down the field, sure enough, Lucy grabs the ball and runs away just as he is about to kick it. Once again, Charlie Brown lands flat on his back, with Lucy laughing in the background.

If we allow ourselves to be fooled into believing that the unions, after years of doing otherwise, will voluntarily give up the concessions needed to balance our budget, we will fall flat on our backs as the unions run away with the ball.

Unions are not solely to blame for the predicament of unsustainable benefit costs. Elected officials and boards who blindly give in to every union demand - without considering the consequences on taxpayers - share the blame. This was most recently on display when the Milwaukee Area Technical College Board, with some members flying into town at the last minute, rushed to approve a union contract before Gov. Walker's proposal would be approved.

Furthermore, we cannot fault unions for asking for the moon during negotiations. After all, they are paid by their members to get the best deal. But at what point do we draw the line between what unions want and what we can afford?

Do we continue to raise bus fares, cut routes and otherwise make it more difficult for our citizens to get to school, jobs and shops, all so that county employees can continue to have the best health plan money can buy and pay next to nothing for it? Do we continue to raise property taxes on seniors and others living on fixed incomes so that county employees can have a guaranteed pension plan and pay little or nothing toward it? Do we continue to privatize county jobs and throw dedicated public employees on the unemployment rolls because their union bosses refuse to make county jobs more affordable?

For decades, the collective bargaining process in Wisconsin - favoring unions - has forced taxpayers to shoulder the burden through tax increases and service cuts. Walker's proposed collective bargaining reforms will level the playing field. They are desperately needed and must be passed.



Thursday, March 31, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Milwaukee County Courthouse Second Floor

(901 N. 9th Street, Room 201)

FREE event - Door prizes - Light Refreshments - Courthouse Tours

Everyone is invited - Learn how YOUR tax dollars make a difference in our community!

**County Department Resource Fair - Meet your County Supervisor and
other Elected Officials - For more information, contact 278-4222**

Produced in cooperation with the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Firewood Sales

The Milwaukee County Parks Farm & Fish Hatchery is selling cords of firewood from storm damaged or trimmed trees found in Milwaukee County.

\$60 per face cord, \$180 per full cord
(A face cord is 4 feet high, 8 feet long and 16 inches wide)

Milwaukee County Parks Farm & Fish Hatchery
8886 South 68th Street, Franklin, WI
(Across from the House of Correction)

**Firewood can be purchased 7 days a week from
8:30am- 2:30pm
(414) 427-6061 for more information**

Maple Sugar Days at Wehr Nature Center

Tap into sugar maples and taste the fresh sap as you hike and hear stories about the sugar maples from a naturalist guide at the Wehr Nature Center.

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Sunday, March 27, 2011

General Public 1:00-4:00pm
(First tour begins at 1:00pm and last begins at 4:00pm)

Call (414) 425-8550 for current fees,
registration for groups and program details.

